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ABSTRACT

As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new means of communication opens up to educators and students. This updated digest describes some sample services and resources available to the K-12 community via electronic mail. Information sources covered include: question answering services, including AskERIC and the Online Writing Lab; listservs or electronic discussion groups; and newsgroups available through Usenet, an electronic bulletin board system. (Contains 10 references.) (BEW)

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Clearinghouse on Information & Technology

ERIC DIGEST

February 1996 EDO-IR-96-02

An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators Part II: Question Answering, Listservs, Discussion Groups, Update 1996

by Nancy A. Morgan

The Internet is an international computer network composed of thousands of smaller networks. As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new method of communication opens up to educators and their students. This digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K-12 community by electronic mail over the Internet.

Question Answering:

The number of services that use electronic mail to deliver information is increasing. Services that teachers will find on the Internet include:

AskERIC: AskERIC is the Internet-based education information service of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) system, headquartered at the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology at Syracuse University. Teachers, library media specialists, administrators, and others involved in education can send a message requesting education information to AskERIC. AskERIC information specialists will respond within 48 hours with ERIC database searches, ERIC Digests, and Internet resources. The benefit of the personalized service is that it allows AskERIC staff to interact with the user, and provide relevant education resources tailored to the user's needs.

- E-mail: askeric@ericir.syr.edu

Resources developed from questions received at AskERIC are archived at the AskERIC Virtual Library:

- Gopher Address: ericir.syr.edu
- Telnet Address: ericir.syr.edu, login as "gopher"
- Gopher URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu
- WWW URL: http://ericir.syr.edu

Ask a Young Scientist: A question answering service for students in grades 1-8 on scientific topics. Questions are researched and answered by advanced chemistry students at Christiansburg High School. Students are asked to limit their questions to five per message, but are encouraged to post as many times as they wish.

- E-mail: apscichs@pen.k12.va.us

Ask Dr. Math: "Ask Dr. Math," a service for elementary, middle, and high school students, is administered by students and professors at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA.

- E-mail: dr.math@forum.swarthmore.edu
- WWW URL: http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/dr-math.html

Ask a Geologist: A service of the U.S. Geological Survey Branch of Pacific Marine Geology, with participation from several other branches. General questions on earth science are referred to the geologist of the day.

- E-mail: ask-a-geologist@usgs.gov
- WWW URL: http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/docs/ask-a-ge.html

Online Writing Lab (OWL): Purdue University Writing Lab provides help on correct English usage and writing. Information on how to get free copies of help sheets on topics ranging from resume writing to proper punctuation can be obtained by sending a message to:

- E-mail: owl@sage.cc.purdue.edu.
  Subject: owl-request.
  Message: Send help.

Tutors will also answer a limited number of questions by e-mail. Send the question to:

- E-mail: owl@sage.cc.purdue.edu.

OWL also maintains a world wide web site with over a hundred handouts on writing skills, resume tips, and a career center with links to job listings.

- WWW URL: http://owl.trc.purdue.edu

Listservs:

Listservs are automated programs that serve as distribution centers for mail messages. Listservs focus on a single topic that may be very broad or extremely narrow. People join a listserv by subscribing, then participate by reading messages, or actively contribute by sending messages to the listserv.

To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@node
Leave the subject line blank.
In the body of the message, write:
subscribe listserv name your firstname lastname

Below are listservs of special interest to K-12 educators:

- **C-EdRes-Server@unb.ca**
  Announcements and reviews of K-12 educational resources on the Internet.
  WWW URL: http://cnet.unb.ca/c-edres
  Archives: URL: http://www.cua.edu/www/eric_ae

- **ECENET-L@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu**
  Early childhood education, to age 8.
  Archives: URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs/ECENET-L/

- **EDNET@lists.umass.edu**
  Internet use in education.
  Archives: URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs/EDNET-List

- **EDPOLYAN@ASUVM.INRE.ASU.EDU**
  Education policy analysis forum.
  Archives: URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs/EDPOLYAN-List

- **GiftedNet@listserv.cc.wm.edu**
  Gifted education curriculum issues.

- **K12ADMIN@listserv.syr.edu**
  K-12 educational administration.
  Archives:URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs/K12ADMIN-List

- **KIDLINK@vm1.nodak.edu**
  Kidlink Society runs several listservs in support of a global dialog for 10-15 year old students. Subscribe to KIDLINK listserv to receive information about the other lists.

- **KIDSPHERE-request@vms.cis.pitt.edu**
  Global network (formerly Kidsnet) for K-12 children & teachers.
  Archives: URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs/KIDSPHERE-List

- **LM_NET@listserv.syr.edu:**
  School library/media services.
  Archives: URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs/LM_NET

- **MIDDLE-L@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu**
  Education of children 10 to 14 years of age.
  Archives: URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs/MIDDLE-L

- **MULTIAGE@services.dese.state.mo.us**
  Mixed-age grouping, mostly in elementary and middle schools.

- **NET-HAPPENINGS@lists.internic.net**
  Internet related news and announcements.

- **TAG-L@VM1.NODAK.EDU**
  Educators and families of gifted youth discuss issues such as appropriate gifted education.

Usenet Newsgroups:

Usenet Newsgroups are an electronic bulletin board system, accessible via the Internet, that consists of discussion forums on literally thousands of topics. Users should contact their system operator for instructions. Some of the Usenet Newsgroups are:

- **k12.chat.elementary**
  General discussion for Elementary Students

- **k12.chat.junior**
  General discussion for Junior High Students

- **k12.chat.senior**
  General discussion for Senior High Students

- **k12.chat.teacher**
  General discussion between K-12 Teachers

- **k12.ed.art**
  Arts and Crafts Education

- **k12.ed.business**
  Business Education

- **k12.ed.life-skills**
  Life Skills Education

- **k12.ed.mat**
  Mathematics Education

- **k12.ed.music**
  Music and Performing Arts

- **k12.ed.science**
  Science Education

- **k12.ed.soc-studies**
  Social Studies Education

- **k12.ed.tag**
  Talented and Gifted Education

- **k12.ed.tech**
  Technology Education

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